(a) whether Government are formulating a National Livestock Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the said policy is likely to be formulated;

(d) whether setting up of farmers organizations and reproduction committees and their important roles has also been outlined in the said policy; and

(e) whether live-stock insurance would also be included in the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A National Livestock Policy is being formulated to attain qualitative and quantitative improvement in livestock, livestock products, feed and fodder resources. It aims to provide for a better interface between modern technologies and management practices regarding breeding, nutrition and health care and also through Animal Husbandry Extension Programmes. The policy aims to guide the future programmes in the said areas.

(c) Formulation of National Livestock Policy is a time consuming exercise, as it involves consultation with vaious technical experts as well as the State Govenments and other stake holders to obtain their views before finalizing the policy. The National Livestock Policy is under formulation and its finalization will take time due to above reasons.

(d) and (e) All important aspects of livestock sector development including setting up of Breeders Associations, Livestock insurance etc. have been included in the draft document of the livestock policy.

Advantage of NAIS

†1059. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the conditions of extending benefits to farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the geographical disasters of a particular area are also taken care of at the time of assessing/determining those conditions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of concessions extended to the farmers under this scheme for the damage caused by drought and floods in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which is under implementation in the country at present, is available to all the farmers-loanee and non-loanee-irrespective of their size of holding. All the farmers growing notified frops and availing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) loans from financial institutions (*i.e.* loanee farmers) are compulsorily covered under the scheme. Whereas scheme is voluntary for other farmers (*i.e.* non-loanee farmers). Non-loanee farmers are required to have a bank account and have to fill up and submit a proposal for the same.

If the actual average yield per hectare of the insured crop for the defined area in the season, falls short of specified Threshold yield, all the insured farmes growing that crop in the defined area are deemed to have suffered shortfall in their yield and become eligible for indemnity claims.

(b) and (c) NAIS provides comprehensive risk insurance to cover yield loss due to non-preventable risks which *inter alia* include natural fire and lightening, Storm, Hailstorm, Cyclone, typhoon, Tempest, Hurricance, Tomado, Flood, Inundation and Landslide; Drought, Dry Spells; Pests/ Diseases.

(d) Bihar is implementing the NAIS since kharif 2000 season. During last 12 crop seasons *i.e.* from Kharif 2000 to Rabi 2005-06, claims to the tune of Rs. 443.72 crore have become payable in the State of Bihar against the premium income of about Rs. 39.00 crores benefiting about 4.50 lakh farmers. Most of these claims have been paid on account of flood and drought in the State.